

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Official Action that claims 2-11 were free of prior art.

Accordingly, this application is amended in a manner to place it in condition for allowance by incorporating the subject matter free of prior art into independent claim 1.

Status of the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the expression "may be" and to include all of the compounds previously recited in claims 2-11, which had depended separately from claim 1.

Claim 12 has been amended to remove the expression "may be".

Claims 2-11 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 12-19 and 26 remain in this application.

Claim Rejections-35 USC §112

Claims 1, 12-19 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

The Official Action objected to the recitation of "may be". This expression has been removed from claims 1 and 12.

The Official Action also objected to the recitation of solvents A, B, C and E and activator D for lacking clarity.

However, solvents A, B, C and E would have been known to one of ordinary skill in the art based on their recited properties in claim 12:

- Solvent A is solvent that dissolves meta-chloroperoxybenzoic acid;
- Solvent B solvent that (i) dissolves a compound according to claim 3 and (ii) is immiscible in that dissolves meta-chloroperoxybenzoic acid;
- Solvent C dissolves the epoxy compound obtained in the first step of claim 12; and
- Solvent E is a solvent that (i) dissolves all of the amines listed in the second step and (ii) is miscible in a solvent that dissolves the epoxy compound obtained in the first step.

Thus, in light of their recited ability to dissolve defined compounds and/or immiscibility/miscibility relative to other solvents, the recitation of solvents A, B, C and E are believed to be clear.

Moreover, the subsequent dependent claims 15-18 explicitly define exemplary solvents A, B, and C. Although E is not specifically identified in the dependent claims, it would have been known based on the required properties.

As to the activator D claimed, this is the activator, or catalyst, used for the reaction between the epoxy compound (obtained from the first step of claim 12) and the amine as

defined. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would have understood activators suitable for such a reaction. Also, an exemplary activator D is identified in dependent claim 14.

Therefore, withdrawal of the indefinite rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-35 USC §102

Claims 1 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EL KIHEL et al. ("EL KIHEL"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

EL KIHEL fails to disclose or suggest formula I as now defined in claim 1, which now requires at least one of the compounds from claims 2 to 11.

Therefore, EL KIHEL fails to anticipate claim 1, and claim 19 which requires the compound of claim 1, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-35 USC §103

Claims 1, 19 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EL KIHEL. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

EL KIHEL fails to disclose or suggest formula I as now defined in claim 1, which now requires at least one of the compounds from claims 2 to 11.

Therefore, EL KIHEL fails to render obvious claim 1, and claim 19 and 26 which require the compound of claim 1, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendment to the claims and the foregoing remarks, this application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our credit card which is being paid online simultaneously herewith for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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